CLAIMS:

1. A coating fluid for forming a coating on a support for use in inkjet printing said fluid comprising a liquid medium having dispersed therein (a) an inorganic oxide selected from aluminium oxide and silica, (b) a binder polymer, and (c) a polymeric crosslinking agent containing functional groups for reaction with the inorganic oxide.

2. A coating fluid as claimed in claim 1 wherein the components (a), (b) and (c) are dispersed in an aqueous liquid.

3. A coating fluid as claimed in claim 1 wherein the binder polymer is polyvinyl alcohol.

4. A coating fluid as claimed in claim 1 wherein the relative amount of inorganic oxide to polymeric crosslinking agent is from 500: 1 to 15:1 preferably 250:1 to 20:1, the relative amount of inorganic oxide to binder polymer is from 50:1 to 2:1 preferably 20:1 to 4:1 and the relative amount of binder polymer to polymeric crosslinking agent is from 40:1 to 2:1 preferably from 20:1 to 3:1 the amounts being by weight on a dry basis.

5. A coating fluid as claimed in claim 1 wherein the polymeric crosslinking agent has the structure:

polymer-----A------$Si(OR)_3$ where

A is optional and when present is a linking group containing not more than 12 carbon atoms, R is hydrogen or a monovalent hydrocarbon group containing from 1 to 6 carbon atoms and the polymer is selected so that the crosslinking agent is dispersible in water.

6. A coating fluid as claimed in claim 1 wherein the polymeric crosslinking agent has been obtained by the partial hydrolysis of a protein to render it water dispersible and reaction with a silane containing functional groups for the cross linking of the inorganic oxide.

7. A coating fluid as claimed claim 1 wherein the functional groups in the cross linking agent are capable of reacting with hydroxyl groups on the inorganic oxide to form in the case of alumina Si-O-Al bonds or in the case of silica Si-O-Si bonds

8. A process for the preparation of a coated support for use as an ink absorbing substrate in inkjet printing which process comprises applying to the support a coating fluid as claimed in claim 1 and causing the crosslinking agent to react with the inorganic oxide.

9. A coated support for use in ink jet printing said support having a coating formed by the application to the support of a coating fluid as claimed in claim 1.